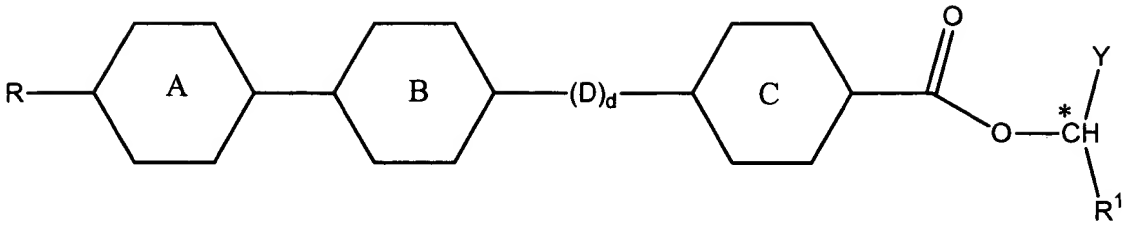


wherein:

R is $C_nF_{2n+1}C_mH_{2m}$ where m is greater than 3 and m + n is less than or equal to 20 and wherein R is optionally attached to ring A with an oxygen;

Rings A, B and C are 5- or 6-carbon aromatic rings each optionally substituted with from one to four fluorines and wherein one or two CH groups in the rings can be substituted with a N, an O or a S group;

d is 0 or 1;

D is a linker group selected from the group consisting of -COO-, -OOC-, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, a cis or trans double bond, or a triple bond, when d is 0 rings B and C are linked through a single bond;

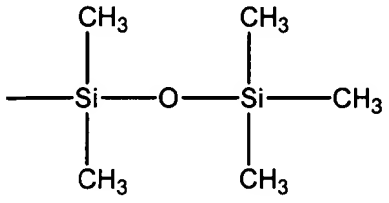
Y is an alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group having from one to six carbon atoms; and

R^1 is a nonchiral tail group selected from linear or branched alkyl groups where one or more non-neighboring CH_2 groups can be replaced with an -O-, -S-, $-Si(R')_2-$, $-Si(R')_2-(CH_2)_p-Si(R')_2-$, where p is an integer ranging from 1 to 6, $-Si(R')_2-O-$, $-Si(R')_2-O-Si(R')_2-O-$, a cis or trans double bond or a triple bond, wherein each R', independent of other R', is an alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group having from one to six carbon atoms and wherein the R^1 tail group is optionally substituted with one or more fluorines and wherein R^1 contains from 1 to 20 carbon atoms; provided that n is not an integer from 4 to 14 and m is not an integer from 4 to 13 when Y is CH_3 or CF_3 and R^1 is an unsubstituted straight chain alkyl group with from 2 to 12 carbon atoms and D is –COO- and A, B and C are unsubstituted 6-carbon aromatic rings.

A1 cont.

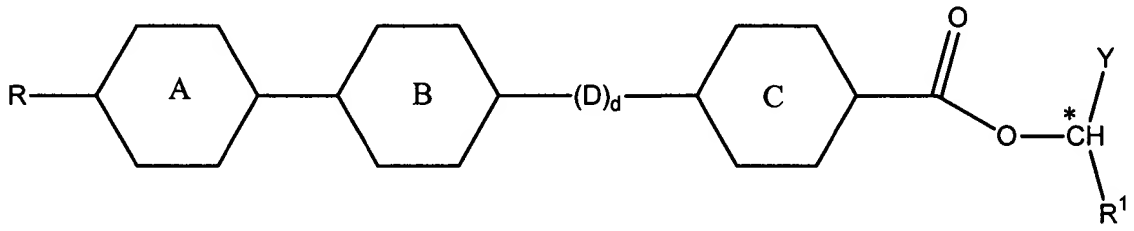
40. (once amended) The liquid crystal composition of claim 38 wherein R^1 contains a

A2



group.

56. (once amended) A compound having the formula:



wherein:

R is $C_nF_{2n+1}C_mH_{2m}$ where m is greater than 3 and m + n is less than or equal to 20 and wherein R is optionally attached to ring A with an oxygen;

Rings A, B and C are 5- or 6-carbon aromatic rings rings each optionally substituted with from one to four fluorines and wherein one or two CH groups in the rings can be substituted with a N, an O or a S group;

A3

d is 0 or 1;

D is a linker group selected from the group consisting of -COO-, -OOC-, a cis or trans double bond, or a triple bond, when d is 0 rings B and C are linked through a single bond;

Y is an alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group having from one to six carbon atoms; and

R^1 is a nonchiral tail group selected from linear or branched alkyl groups where one or more non-neighboring CH_2 groups can be replaced with an -O-, -S-, $-Si(R')_2-$, $-Si(R')_2-(CH_2)_p-Si(R')_2-$, where p is an integer ranging from 1 to 6, $-Si(R')_2-O-$, $-Si(R')_2-O-Si(R')_2-O-$, a cis or trans double bond or a triple bond, wherein each R', independent of other R', is an alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group having from one to six carbon atoms and wherein

A3 cont

the R^1 tail group is optionally substituted with one or more fluorines and wherein R^1 contains from 1 to 20 carbon atoms; provided that n is not an integer from 4 to 14 and m is not an integer from 4 to 13 when Y is CH_3 or CF_3 and R^1 is an unsubstituted straight chain alkyl group with from 2 to 12 carbon atoms and D is –COO- and A, B and C are unsubstituted 6-carbon aromatic rings.